

CHAIR OF MIDWIFERY, ABERDEEN.



TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DR CHARLES BELL, F.R.C.P.E.,
PHYSICIAN TO THE ROYAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL,
EDINBURGH.



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TESTIMONIALS.

I.—From the Right Hon. SIR JOHN M'NEILL, M.D., G.C.B.,
one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors.

GRANTON HOUSE, EDINBURGH,
January 25, 1869.

DEAR DR BELL,—I am glad to hear that you are a candidate for the Chair of Midwifery at Aberdeen, because—having known you for many years, both in society and as a professional attendant in my own family, especially at the births of several of my grandchildren, as well as on similar occasions in the families of relations and friends—I am satisfied that your character and disposition, your great experience and extensive knowledge, eminently fit you for that Chair.

Should you be appointed to it, your brother professors will, I am sure, have an amiable and estimable colleague, and I do not doubt that you will turn out pupils quite as well qualified to practice that branch of their Profession, as any other University can produce. Wishing you all success,—I remain, &c.

JOHN M'NEILL.

II.—From JOHN MOIR, M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

52 CASTLE STREET,
EDINBURGH, *January 26, 1869.*

Dr Charles Bell has been for many years one of the most energetic and industrious, as well as successful cultivators of the Obstetric art in this City. It is the branch of Medicine to which he has principally directed his attention—which has been his favourite subject of study—and to the literature and practice of which he has chiefly devoted his energies.

Dr Bell's appearances at the Obstetrical Society here, sufficiently attest with what zeal and success he has cultivated his favourite pursuits.

Dr Bell possesses a qualification very essential to a public lecturer,—that of being able, clearly and distinctly, to impart his knowledge to others; and should he be successful in obtaining the Chair for which he is a candidate, I feel satisfied that it will be his delight to impart to others that knowledge which he has himself acquired in the course of a long practice, and that no exertion will be wanting on his part to discharge faithfully all the duties that may be expected of him.

JOHN MOIR.

III.—From JOHN SMITH, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Vice-President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

20 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,
EDINBURGH, *January 26, 1869.*

I have had the pleasure of Dr Charles Bell's acquaintance for many years, and can therefore speak to his professional knowledge and ability, as well as to his general acquirements. I am aware that whilst acting as a general practitioner, the department of Midwifery has always engaged much of his attention and study, and that his knowledge of it, both practically and scientifically, is very extensive, and that he is the author of various valuable papers on the subject. My opinion therefore is, that he would fill the chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen with much advantage to the public and credit to himself.

JOHN SMITH.

IV.—From Sir J. Y. SIMPSON, Bart., M.D., Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.

52 QUEEN STREET,
EDINBURGH, *January 26, 1869.*

I know that Dr Charles Bell has, for many long years past, specially devoted his excellent talents to the study and practice of Midwifery in all its various departments.

He has published several essays and communications on Obstetric subjects, all of them displaying both a very intimate and thorough knowledge of the matters of which they treat, and a perfect lucidity of description and statement.

At the Obstetric Society, and elsewhere, I have often heard him talk on Midwifery topics, always with clearness and earnestness.

If elected to the vacant Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen, I feel sure that Dr Bell would devote himself to the duties of the Professorship with enthusiastic zeal.

J. Y. SIMPSON.

V.—From JAMES SYME, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, and Surgeon to the Queen for Scotland.

I SHANDWICK PLACE,
EDINBURGH, January 22, 1869.

Having long had the pleasure of being well acquainted with Dr Charles Bell, I entertain a high opinion of his talents, professional acquirements, and personal qualities. He would, I feel sure, prove an able successor to my friend Dr Dyce.

JAMES SYME.

VI.—From W. T. GAIRDNER, Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

GLASGOW, January 22, 1869.

I am really quite disqualified, by almost entire want of knowledge of the subject, from giving an opinion as to a Midwifery Professorship, but I have always understood that your long and persevering study of the diseases peculiar to women, had given you the position of an authority in regard to some of these diseases, especially those occurring after child-birth.

I shall be glad to hear that you have succeeded in obtaining a position corresponding to your merits and great experience.

W. T. GAIRDNER.

VII.—From JOHN BURN, M.D., F.R.C.S., President of the
Obstetrical Society, Edinburgh.

7 TEVIOT ROW,
EDINBURGH, *January 25, 1869.*

I have known Dr Bell for many years as a highly accomplished Obstetrical physician. I have often met him in society, and at our meetings have admired with what great facility, clearness, and precision, he expressed his opinion.

He is quite familiar with all the branches of the Profession, but more especially with Midwifery and the diseases of women,—as to this department he has long devoted his chief attention.

From all that I know of Dr Bell, I am thoroughly satisfied that he is eminently well qualified for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen.

JOHN BURN.

VIII.—From JAMES A. SIDEY, M.D., Vice-President of the
Obstetrical Society, Edinburgh.

42 QUEEN STREET,
EDINBURGH, *January 25, 1869.*

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in complying with your request, and in stating that an acquaintance of several years enables me to say, that in my opinion you are in every way well qualified to teach the Science and Practice of Midwifery, thoroughly and efficiently, and I feel assured that you would discharge the duties of Professor with credit to yourself and honour to the University.—I am, &c.,

JAMES A. SIDEY.

IX.—From R. PEEL RITCHIE, M.D., F.R.C.P.L., &c.,
Senior Secretary, Obstetrical Society; Medical Officer,
Royal Dispensary; late Extra Physician, Royal Edinburgh
Hospital for Sick Children, &c., &c.

16 HILL STREET,
EDINBURGH, *January 23, 1869.*

Understanding that Dr Charles Bell is a candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen, it gives me

pleasure to state, that whilst I have been connected with the Obstetrical Society of Edinburgh, I have listened with much interest to the various important communications he has presented to it. Dr Bell has contributed largely to the literature of Obstetric Medicine, and has specially applied himself to this branch of the Profession. At present he is one of the Physicians connected with the Maternity Hospital of this city, and has filled, with distinction, the office of Physician in other charitable institutions.

From his long practical acquaintance with Obstetric Medicine, I consider he is well qualified to teach it, and that he would very ably discharge the duties of a Professorial chair.

R. PEEL RITCHIE.

X.—From G. STEVENSON SMITH, Surgeon, and Junior Secretary to the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, &c.

16 DUKE STREET,
EDINBURGH, 26th January 1869.

Dr Charles Bell's name has been familiar to me since my student days in connection with many departments of Medical Science, but I have always regarded him as an authority chiefly in matters relating to Midwifery and the diseases of women.

He has communicated many most interesting papers on these subjects to the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, of which he is an *ex vice-president*, and I have had many opportunities in the discussions there, of observing the wide range and extremely practical nature of his knowledge.

From Dr Bell's very large experience in hospital and private practice, his fluency in communicating information to others, his high culture, as well as from the dignity and kindness of his manners, he is, in my opinion, well suited to be an instructor of youth, and would be an honour to any University.

G. STEVENSON SMITH.

XI.—From J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN F.R.C.P.E., Lecturer on Midwifery, and one of the Examiners in the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician to the Royal Infirmary.

30 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,
EDINBURGH, January 21, 1869.

I hereby certify that I have long known Dr Charles Bell as a student and practitioner in Obstetrics and the diseases of women.

As the result of his studies, he has published many interesting and valuable papers on Midwifery and Gynækology, which have made his name widely known and esteemed as a cultivator of these branches of Medical science. Some of his writings, being of recent date, shew that his enthusiasm in these pursuits has not been the result of temporary excitement.

Dr C. Bell is at present a physician to the Royal Maternity Hospital, and is engaged in Midwifery practice.

These circumstances form a combination which entitles him to demand for his claims as a candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen, the most careful weighing and consideration.

J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN.

XII.—From ALEXANDER KEILLER, M.D.; F.R.C.P.; F.R.C.S., Physician to the Royal Maternity and Sick Children's Hospitals; and Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, Medical School, Royal Infirmary.

21 QUEEN STREET,
EDINBURGH, January 25, 1869.

From my long and intimate acquaintance with Dr Charles Bell, I have had the most ample opportunities of judging as to his character and requirements; and I feel satisfied that he possesses all the qualities requisite for efficiently discharging the duties of the Chair of Midwifery now vacant in the University of Aberdeen.

Dr Bell has, for many years, had a large and varied experience of Midwifery practice; and from his numerous contributions to

Obstetric literature has proved his practical and scientific acquaintance with the special department of Medicine which it is the duty of a Professor of Midwifery to teach.

It is consistent with my knowledge to state, that Dr Bell has studiously accumulated a large amount of appropriate teaching material, and from what I have seen of him as a colleague in the Royal Maternity Hospital, and as one of my class examiners and umpires, I can vouch for his faithfulness and devotedness in the performance of any work he may be induced to undertake.

I shall only add, that Dr Bell's personal qualities admirably fit him as a prudent guide to the Obstetric pupils, and that his urbanity of manners, strictly honourable conduct towards his Professional brethren, and his general trustworthiness, must go far to ensure his success, if appointed to the important and responsible position he now seeks.

ALEX. KEILLER.

XIII.—From T. H. PATTISON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Ex-President of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society.

EDINBURGH, January 22, 1869.

I have known Dr Charles Bell as a most efficient Obstetrician for years, and can speak of his experience, skill, and kindness in gaining the confidence of his patient, and treatment. We have met together both in private and public,—the former in patients of my own, and the latter when examining the pupils of Dr Keiller's class, both in the written exercises and the practical oral examination in the class-room, where his acumen comes out wisely in his practical knowledge of the subject. At one time Dr Bell intended lecturing on Midwifery, and it is to be regretted that he did not do so. Dr Bell is deeply read, and is still a student. He has communicated some valuable papers and information to the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, in the debates of which he takes a lively interest. I consider Dr Bell eminently well qualified to fill the Chair of Midwifery at Aberdeen.

T. H. PATTISON.

XIV.—From WILLIAM CUMMING, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., one of the Examiners in the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

18 AINSLIE PLACE,
EDINBURGH, *January 23, 1869.*

I have been intimately acquainted with Dr Charles Bell for many years, and have had abundant opportunity for knowing that he has made Obstetrics a specialty both in study and practice; that he is a highly accomplished practitioner in it; and that, if successful in getting the Chair, he will devote an amount of knowledge and practical experience which few possess, and prove himself not only an able Professor, but also a good Clinical Teacher.

Those who know him best, know how conscientious and pains-taking he is in the discharge of his duty, and how scrupulous is his integrity.

WILLIAM CUMMING.

XV.—From ALEXANDER R. SIMPSON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.; F.F.P.S.G.; formerly Assistant to the Professor of Midwifery in the Edinburgh University, &c.

1 BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE,
GLASGOW, *January 22, 1869.*

The name of Dr Charles Bell has been so long and so honourably associated with Obstetrics and Gynækology, that I gladly give my testimony to his high qualifications to fill the vacant Chair of that department of Medicine in the University of Aberdeen.

His extensive practical experience would render him, moreover, a very valuable acquisition to the Profession there as a consulting accoucheur.

ALEX. R. SIMPSON.

XVI.—From JOHN RICHARD WARDELL, M.D., F.R.C.P.L.,
Physician to the Tunbridge Wells Infirmary.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, *January 26, 1869.*

I have much pleasure in giving my testimony as to the high professional character and great attainments of Dr Charles Bell. I know him to be an able and accomplished physician; and I believe him to possess peculiar qualifications for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen. He has, throughout his career, made Obstetric medicine a favourite and devoted pursuit. He has rendered himself deeply conversant with this department of the Profession in all its varied branches, nor am I acquainted with any one in whose opinion I should place greater confidence. When resident in this town he was called in consultation to several cases of unusual difficulty and danger, and the impression which he made upon those who sought his advice, was that of his being a high authority in all pertaining to Obstetrics. I am familiar with his writings, and I consider them to bear the impress of practical acumen and scientific originality. He has kept pace with medical science. I never had the pleasure of hearing him lecture, but I should imagine, from the zeal which he entertains for his special study, his lucid powers of expression, and his fertility of illustration, that he has those qualities which render him adapted for imparting information to students. I may also add, it has so occurred that I have had much intercourse with Dr Charles Bell on matters of a professional nature, and I know him to be of erect and inflexible principle, and that he is a high-minded and an honourable gentleman.

JOHN RICHARD WARDELL.

XVII.—From JOHN JOHNSON, M.D. Edin., Tunbridge Wells.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
January 25, 1869.

On more than one occasion it has been my good fortune to have the aid and counsel of Dr Charles Bell, in difficult cases of

Midwifery and the diseases of women, and on each and every occasion, I have derived the greatest benefit from his advice and assistance.

Both theoretically and practically, I am satisfied that Dr Charles Bell, in such cases, is second to none.

JOHN JOHNSON.

XVIII.—From WILLIAM BRYCE, M.D., Vice President of the Obstetrical Society, Edinburgh.

DALKEITH, *January 26, 1869.*

Dr Charles Bell has been so very favourably known in Edinburgh and elsewhere, for many years, as an accomplished Obstetrician—has acquired such a thorough knowledge of the literature of the subject—has been enabled, from his position in Edinburgh, to keep abreast of the advances made in the art of Midwifery—has had such extensive practical experience in that department—and has so systematic, clear, and thorough a mode of treating any subject he handles, that I consider he would become an efficient and acceptable teacher if appointed to the vacant Chair of Midwifery in Aberdeen.

WILLIAM BRYCE